

Atty. Dkt. No. 016906-0264

REMARKS

This response supplements Applicants' Amendment and Reply filed on September 2, 2005 as well as Applicants' Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment filed on December 16, 2005.

In this Supplemental Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 21, 27, 29, and 32-39. Following entry of these amendments, claims 21-40 remain pending in the application.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of Applicants' Amendment and Reply filed on September 2, 2005 as well as Applicants' Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment filed on December 16, 2005 and further in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks which follow.

Statement of Substance of Interview

During a personal interview conducted on January 13, 2006, Examiner Ciric and Mr. Paul Strain discussed the outstanding Office Action and the references relied upon in the rejections set forth therein. Examiner Ciric and Mr. Strain discussed amending the claims to refer to "means for selectively and alternately connecting each of a releasable cover and a rear vehicle compartment temperature control unit."

Amendments to Claims 21, 27, 29 and 32-39

In this Supplemental Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claims 21, 33 and 34. In addition, Applicants have amended dependent claims 27, 29, 32 and 35-39 for consistency with the amendments to claims 21 and 34.

Independent claims 21 and 33 have each been amended to recite "connecting means, associated with at least said connecting section of said conditioning housing, for selectively and alternately attaching each of said releasable cover and said rear vehicle compartment temperature control unit to said connecting section."

Independent claim 34 has been amended to recite "connecting means, associated with at least said connecting section of said conditioning housing, for selectively and alternately attaching to said connecting section an additional member to be selectively mounted over said

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air outlet opening through said connecting section, said additional member being selected from the group consisting of (i) a releasable cover. . . ; and (ii) a rear vehicle compartment temperature control unit. . . ”.

In the outstanding Office Action, the PTO has set forth rejections under §112 and §102. Applicants submit that the rejections under §112 have been obviated by the amendments and remarks set forth in Applicants' previously filed Amendment and Reply and the Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. With respect to the §102 rejection based upon U.S. Patent 6,422,301 to Scoccia *et al.*, Applicants submit that the independent claims 21, 33 and 34 are allowable in view of the amendments and remarks set forth in Applicants' previously filed Amendment and Reply and the Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment and because Scoccia *et al.* fails to disclose the above-quoted features of claims 21, 33 and 34.

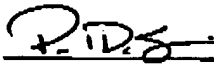
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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